UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/97
18 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fifty-second session
Item 109 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 3 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Karen refugees.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 109 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 3 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Karen refugees

The European Union expresses its concern about renewed violent conflict on the Myanmar side of the Thai/Myanmar border. The present situation seriously affects the civilian population. It urges the parties involved to exercise maximum restraint and to seek non-violent means to resolve their dispute.

As a result of the conflict large numbers of refugees have again been crossing the border into Thailand. The European Union appreciates the fact that the Royal Thai Government has been providing assistance to refugee populations on its territory for many years, in fulfilment of its humanitarian obligations. With regard to the new influx of refugees from Myanmar the European Union urges the Government of Thailand to apply internationally recognized norms and standards relating to the treatment of refugees. The European Union trusts that Thailand will allow all civilians seeking refuge on its territory to stay thee until the underlying causes of their flight have been removed, and to provide them the necessary protection.